



PRESS RELEASE

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Pennsylvania Hog & Pig Inventory Unchanged From a Year Ago

HARRISBURG, PA, July 5, 2006 - - There were 1,070,000 hogs and pigs on Pennsylvania farms on June 1, 2006, according to the Pennsylvania Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). This estimated inventory was 30,000 head fewer than the March inventory, but unchanged from the June 2005 inventory.

Market hog inventory, at 1,070,000 head, decreased 30,000 head since March; while breeding stock inventory, at 100,000 head, was unchanged from both March and last June. The March-May 2006 pig crop totaled 419,000 head, down 9,000 head from June a year earlier and down 46,000 head from the December 2005-February 2006 pig crop. There were 46,000 sows farrowed during the quarter, 1,000 fewer than the previous year. The average litter rate was 9.10 pigs per litter, down from 9.90 pigs in March and unchanged from June the previous year.

Pennsylvania hog farmers intend to have 48,000 sows farrow during the June-August 2006 period and 47,000 for the September-November quarter, 1,000 more than actually farrowed in June-August 2005 and the same number that actually farrowed in the September-November period one year ago.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on June 1, 2006, was 60.9 million head. This was up slightly from June 1, 2005, and up 1 percent from March 1, 2006. Breeding inventory, at 6.06 million head, was up 1 percent from both last year and from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.9 million head, was up slightly from last year, and up 2 percent from last quarter.

The March-May 2006 U.S. pig crop, at 26.3 million head, was up 1 percent from 2005, and up 3 percent from 2004. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.90 million head, up 1 percent from both 2005 and 2004. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.08 for the March-May 2006 period, compared to 9.02 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.20 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.92 million sows farrow during the June-August 2006 quarter, up slightly from the actual farrowings in 2005, but up 1 percent from 2004. Intended farrowings for September-November 2006, at 2.92 million sows, are up one percent from both 2005 and 2004. The total number of hogs owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 38 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, down from 40 percent last year.

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